

TABLE 3.4-2 Federal- and State-Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Species	Federal Status ^a	State Status	Distribution and Habitat	Occurrence within Projects Area
Plants				
Peirson's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus magdalanae</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	FT, PCH	SE	Slopes and hollows of windblown sand dunes, known only from the Algodones Dunes (Imperial Sand Dunes), and in nearby Mexico from a limited area of dunes within the Gran Desierto, in the northwestern portion of the State of Sonora.	No suitable habitat; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.
Algodones Dunes sunflower <i>Helianthus niveus</i> ssp. <i>tephrodes</i>	—	SE	Unstabilized sand dunes in the Algodones Dunes of Imperial County.	No suitable habitat; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.
Fish				
Desert pupfish <i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	FE	SE	Found in some agricultural drains that discharge directly into the Salton Sea, shoreline pools of the Salton Sea, and desert washes at San Felipe Wash and Salt Creek. Prefer shallow, slow-moving waters with some vegetation.	Not known or expected to occur in the New River because of the high sediment loads, excessive velocities, and presence of predators. May occur in some shallow areas of the Salton Sea near agricultural drainages and near the mouth of Salt Creek.
Reptiles				
Desert tortoise <i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	FT	ST	Mohave and Sonoran desert areas, especially areas of creosote bush scrub.	Out of known range for species not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.
Barefoot gecko <i>Coleonyx switaki</i>	— ^b	ST	Rock outcrops on arid hillsides and canyons in desert scrub vegetation types.	No suitable habitat; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.
Flat-tailed horned lizard <i>(Phrynosoma mcallii)</i>	BLM-SS	—	Mohave and Sonoran desert areas in desert scrub vegetation types.	Suitable habitat exists along the proposed and alternative transmission line routes.

TABLE 3.4-2 (Cont.)

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Distribution and Habitat	Occurrence within Projects Area
Birds				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FT, PD	SE	Riparian areas containing large trees suitable for roosting. Occasionally visit the Salton Sea area during annual migrations.	Nonbreeding individuals occur in the Salton Sea area during the winter. Could occasionally roost on transmission towers within the transmission line or on large trees along the New River routes.
Swainson's hawk (nesting) <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	—	ST	Plains, range, opens hills, sparse trees. Uncommon winter migrant.	Local breeding population now extirpated; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.
Brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	FE	SE	Primarily in estuarine, marine subtidal, and open waters; nesting colonies on the Channel Islands, the Coronado Islands, and on islands in the Gulf of California.	The Salton Sea currently supports a year-round population, sometimes reaching 5,000 individuals. Successfully nested at the Salton Sea in 1996. No suitable habitat and not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines.
Yuma clapper rail <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	FE	ST	Nests in emergent vegetation in freshwater and saltwater marshes and wetlands. Year-round resident at the Salton Sea and along the lower Colorado River into Mexico.	No suitable habitat and not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines. Although nesting has not been reported, there is a potential for individuals to occur in wetlands along the New River. Occur at the south end of the Salton Sea near the New and Alamo River mouths, at the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, at the Wister Waterfowl Management Area, the Imperial Wildlife Area, and other locations.

TABLE 3.4-2 (Cont.)

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Distribution and Habitat	Occurrence within Projects Area
California least tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	PE	—	Nests on coastal beaches and estuaries near shallow waters. The terns prefer open areas where they have good visibility for long distances to see the approach of both ground and avian predators. The substrate is usually sand or fine gravel and can be mixed with shell fragments.	No suitable habitat and not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines; not considered likely to occur within the New River; rare spring and summer visitors to the Salton Sea.
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE	SE	Summer breeding resident in riparian habitats in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and northwestern Mexico. Nests in riparian habitat characterized by dense stands of intermediate-sized shrubs or trees.	Low potential for nesting in tamarisk-dominated riparian areas along the New River, although this is not the preferred riparian vegetation type.
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE, CH	SE	Riparian areas along the lower Colorado River basin. Nests in well-developed overstories and understories, and low densities of aquatic and herbaceous cover.	Occurs accidentally in the Salton Sea and New River area during migration.
Yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	FC	ST	Riparian areas. Remnant populations breed along sections of seven rivers, including the Colorado River in the southern part of California.	Has not been seen recently in the Salton Sea area, but suitable habitat does exist in some of the upper reaches of streams draining into the Sea, such as Whitewater River.
Elf owl <i>Micrathene whitneyi</i>	—	SE	Desert trees. Very localized populations are present to the east of the Colorado River.	Out of range from known breeding locations; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, the New River, or the Salton Sea.

TABLE 3.4-2 (Cont.)

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Distribution and Habitat	Occurrence within Projects Area
Western burrowing owl <i>Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea</i>	BLM-SS	—	Year-round resident and nests throughout most of California from March through August. Inhabits burrows in desert-scrub, grassland, and agricultural areas.	Single individual observed within the proposed transmission line routes, and there is appropriate habitat for nesting and overwintering; may occur in desert scrub and agricultural areas along the shorelines of the New River and the Salton Sea.
Gila woodpecker <i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>	—	SE	Saguaro and willow-cottonwood desert habitats. Date palms, tamarisk. Known to occur in the vicinity of the Colorado River and near Brawley.	Not expected to occur within the vicinity of the proposed transmission line routes due to lack of suitable habitat. Could occur in riparian areas of the New River near Brawley.
Bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	—	ST	Nests in northern California and overwinters in South America. Nests in bluffs or banks, usually adjacent to water, where the soil consists of sand or sandy loam.	Not expected to occur within the vicinity of the proposed transmission line routes due to lack of suitable habitat. Migrating individuals may occur in some areas along the New River or Salton Sea during April and September.
Mammals				
Peninsular bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis</i>	FE	ST	Inhabit dry, rocky, low-elevation desert slopes, canyons, and washes from the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains near Palm Springs, California, south into Baja California, Mexico.	Out of typical range; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line routes, the New River, or the southern portions of the Salton Sea.
Palm Springs Ground Squirrel <i>Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus</i>	FC	—	Occurs from San Geronio Pass to the vicinity of the Salton Sea. It has not been reported to occur in areas surrounding the southern portion of the Salton Sea or the Yuha Desert, and suitable habitat does not occur along the New River. Typically associated with sand fields and dune formations.	Out of known range; not expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line routes, the New River, or the southern portions of the Salton Sea.

TABLE 3.4-2 (Cont.)

- ^a Status codes: BLM-SS = BLM-designated sensitive species; CH = designated critical habitat; FC = proposed for listing as threatened or endangered by the Federal government; FT = listed as threatened by the Federal government; FE = listed as endangered by the Federal government; PCH = proposed critical habitat; PD = proposed delisting; ST = listed as threatened by the State of California; and SE = listed as endangered by the State of California.
- ^b A dash indicates not listed.